PRESIDENT: Thank you Senator Carsten. I don't know if you planned it this way, Senator Carsten, but that is also a birthday gift because today is the birthday of our esteemed Speaker. Senator Luedtke is '46 years old today, give or take ten. I said give or take ten. Congratulations. The Chair recognizes Senator Luedtke.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Thank you Mr. President. Gosh, for a moment there you really lightened up my day by talking in the 40's. You know after you get over 50 you don't even talk about birthdays anymore. Barry came over a little while ago and said to me, "Boy, you sure know how to put on a birthday party", when we had the Color Guard this morning. It was something a little different, I guess, when you have a day like this. I do appreciate the cards. I think mainly it stems from the fact that everybody knows that this is my last year in the Legislature, and they are being very kind to me knowing that it is the last. I do appreciate it though. I've enjoyed every minute of the Legislature. I appreciate your kind regards today for my birthday.

PRESIDENT: There is cake under the North balcony. I'm sure the Pages will get around to delivering that in due time. We go to Item 8 on the Agenda, introduction of new bills.

CLERK: Read title to Legislative Bills 551 through 640.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE PRESIDING

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Are there any other bills for introduction at this time? If so, please bring them to the Clerks' desk. We have now read in all of the bills that have been submitted for introduction. Mr. Clerk, you may proceed to read the resolutions.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have two resolutions on my desk. Read title to Legislative Resolutions 145 and 146.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Just a moment. Senator Marsh, for what purpose do you arise?

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, I am having a great deal of difficulty hearing the reading from the rostrum. I would like to hear the resolutions.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: All right. Could we have a little bit of order on the floor so that at least you can hear the resolutions, because someone may move to suspend rules and take up these resolutions. You should know what is before the body. Thank you Senator Marsh.

CLERK: Continued to read Legislative Resolution 146. Mr. President, that resolution will be laid over.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: All right.

CLERK: Mr. President, two more bills.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Continue.

CLERK: Read title to Legislative Bills 641 and 642. Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Yes Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Nichol asked to be excused from January 6 to January 17.